competitive international prices against the global tenders floated by STC/MMTC/PEC (Government of India Undertakings).

During 2006-07, 53.79 lakh tons of wheat was imported at weighted average price of US $ 205.34 per ton *i.e.* Rs.8,214.00 per ton (approx.). Further, during 2007-08, 18.44 lakh tons of wheat has been imported at a weighted average price of US $ 366.83 per ton *i.e.* Rs. 14,673.00 per ton (apprpx.).

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Appointment of unregistered doctors in hospitals

†1562. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only those doctors who are registered with Medical Council of India (MCI) can apply for jobs in Government and private hospitals;

(b) whether Government is aware that many private hospitals are appointing doctors who are not registered with MCI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against such private hospitals and doctors?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) A doctor having permanent registration from State Medical Council/Medical Council of India can apply for job in Government and Private Hospitals.

(b) No.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Shortage of medical facilities

1563. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as pointed out in the Sixteenth Report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) as per the population norms based on 2001 Census, there is a shortage of 13804 Sub Centres, 3353 Primary Health Centres and 2581 Community Health Centres, and as against a requirement of 22669 Doctors in PHCs, only 22273 were in position, resulting in a shortfall of 1793 Doctors, in CHCs, as against a requirement of 15640 Specialists, only 3979 Specialists were in position as on March, 2006 resulting in a shortfall of 9413 Specialists (75 per cent shortage); and

(b) what is the present status and how does it compare with neighbouring/ advanced countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

(b) As on March, 2007, there are a total of 145272 Sub Centres, 22370 Primary Health Centres and 4045 Community Health Centres functioning across the country. As against the sanctioned posts of 27274 doctors, there are a total of 22608 doctors are in position at PHC and as against the sanctioned posts of 10615 Specialists, there are a total of 5117 doctors are in position at CHCs as on March, 2007. India's health indicators have registered significant improvement since independence. However, there is still long way to go before our indicators can match developed countries. Our indicators are better than most neighbouring countries except Sri Lanka on most parameters.

Performance of National Board of Exam

†1564. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Board of Exam which was set up to conduct Post Graduate and post doctoral examinations has been successful in achieving its objectives and targets;

(b) if so, the complete details regarding the results of examinations conducted during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for conducting examination only once in a year at present; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to achieve the target of one doctor per thousand of population?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The National Board of Examinations has been successful in conducting Post Graduation Examinations.

(b) The details regarding the results of examinations conducted during the last five years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The following examinations are conducted by the NBE:

1. DNB CET Examination
2. DNB Final Examination
3. Fellowship Entrance Examination
4. Fellowship Exit Examination
5. Screening Test for Foreign Medical Graduates

The fellowship entrance and exit examinations, DNB Final Examinations are conducted on an annual basis while the DNB CET examinations are conducted in June and December every year, the screening test is conducted in March and September every year. The DNB final exam is also conducted in June in certain specialties.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.